

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, 27 and 32 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,125,487 to Ive. Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, 27 and 32 have been cancelled, therefore the above rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 15-17, 27-30 and 32 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,298,509 to Vickers. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 15-17, 27-30 have been cancelled, therefore the above rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 26, 27 and 32 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,269,503 to Betker. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 26, 27 and 32 have been cancelled, therefore the above rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 27-30 and 32-35 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,154,906 to Erli. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 27-30 and 32-35 have been cancelled, therefore the above rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected Claims 10 and 31 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,125,487 to Ive. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 27-30 and 32-35 have been cancelled, therefore the above rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 4 and 19-25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amended Claims 4 and 19 by rewriting them in independent form and including all of the limitations of the cancelled Claim 1, from which Claims 4 and 19 were depending. Claims 20-25 depend from Claim 19.

Accordingly, Claims 4 and 19-25 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the pending Claims 4 and 19-25. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDED CLAIM MARKED UP TO SHOW CHANGES
SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

4. (Amended) An active external change aid for assisting in the application or removal of articles worn externally on the body of a wearer, the active external change aid comprising at least one effect generating element being capable of moving at least a portion of the article from a first point to a second point during application or removal of the article, the effect generating element being capable of emitting energy. ~~The active external change aid of Claim 3 wherein the at least one effect generating element is selected from the group consisting of a magnet, an air jet, and a thermal cell.~~

19. (Amended) An active external change aid for assisting in the application or removal of articles worn externally on the body of a wearer, the active external change aid comprising at least one effect generating element. ~~The active external change aid of Claim 4 wherein the effect generating element performs a transformation which modifies at least a portion of the article from a first condition to at least one second condition.~~